

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

RENALDO RAMON PRESSWOOD,

Petitioner,

Case No. 21-cv-12878
Hon. Matthew F. Leitman

v.

RANDEE REWERTS,

Respondent.

/

ORDER DENYING PETITIONER'S MOTION TO APPOINT COUNSEL

This is a habeas case brought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Petitioner has submitted an original and an amended habeas petition, ECF Nos. 1, 11. Respondent has filed an answer to the petition (as amended) and the state court record. ECF Nos. 14, 15. Petitioner has filed a reply and a supplemental reply to that answer. ECF Nos. 17, 18. The matter is now before the Court on Petitioner's motion to appoint counsel. ECF No. 20.

A petitioner has no absolute right to be represented by counsel on federal habeas review. *See Abdur-Rahman v. Michigan Dept. of Corrections*, 65 F.3d 489, 492 (6th Cir. 1995); *see also Wright v. West*, 505 U.S. 277, 293 (1992) (citing *Pennsylvania v. Finley*, 481 U.S. 551, 555 (1987)). “[A]ppointment of counsel in a civil case is . . . a matter within the discretion of the court. It is a privilege and

not a right.”” *Childs v. Pellegrin*, 822 F.2d 1382, 1384 (6th Cir. 1987) (quoting *United States v. Madden*, 352 F.2d 792, 793 (9th Cir. 1965)).

Having conducted a preliminary review of the case, the Court finds that the parties have submitted all of the required pleadings and concludes that appointment of counsel is not necessary for the proper resolution of this matter. Accordingly, the Court denies Petitioner’s motion to appoint counsel. The Court will bear in mind Petitioner’s request if, upon a more detailed review of the record, the Court determines that appointment of counsel is necessary. Petitioner need not file an additional motion concerning this issue.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Matthew F. Leitman

MATTHEW F. LEITMAN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Dated: July 22, 2024

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was served upon the parties and/or counsel of record on July 22, 2024, by electronic means and/or ordinary mail.

s/Holly A. Ryan

Case Manager

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